

REMARKS

Claims 2, 5 to 14, 16 to 19, and 22 to 31 are pending. Claims 5 and 6 are independent.¹ Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

We thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5 and 6 recited allowable subject matter. Without conceding the propriety of the outstanding rejections, and solely to achieve early allowance, claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of previous base claim 1. Claim 17 has been amended, as suggested by the Examiner. Furthermore, a number of dependent claims have been clarified in view of the addition of the claim 1 subject matter to claims 5 and 6.

Finally, several dependent claims were previously withdrawn pursuant to an election of species requirement. Since the claims upon which these withdrawn claims are now believed to be allowable, we respectfully request that the withdrawn claims be rejoined, and an indication that such claims are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney can be reached at the address shown below. All telephone calls should be directed to the undersigned at 617-521-7896.

¹ The Examiner is urged to independently confirm this recitation of the pending claims.

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Please apply any fees or credits due in this case, including claims fees that have not otherwise been paid, to Deposit Account 06-1050 referencing Attorney Docket No. 14219-076US1.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 21, 2007



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